



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 525
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012-2706
PHONE: (213) 974-8301 FAX: (213) 626-5427

J. TYLER McCAULEY
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

WENDY L. WATANABE
CHIEF DEPUTY

November 6, 2007

TO: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley 
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – RENAISSANCE
UNLIMITED GROUP HOMES, INCORPORATED - RENAISSANCE I
AND II GROUP HOMES**

We have completed a review of Renaissance I and II Group Homes (Group Home or Agency) operated by Renaissance Unlimited Group Homes, Incorporated. Each Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

Renaissance I and II Group Homes are each six-bed facilities, which provide care for boys ages 13-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Renaissance I and II Group Homes were each providing services for five DCFS children.

Renaissance I and II Group Homes are located in the Second District.

Scope of Review

The purpose of the review is to determine whether the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. Additionally, the review covers basic child safety and licensing issues and includes an evaluation of the Agency's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, a facility inspection and

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interviews with children placed in the Group Home at the time of the review. Interviews with children are designed to obtain their perspectives on the program services provided by the Agency and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

Summary of Findings

Generally, the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. The Agency needs to address a few deficient areas.

Both Group Homes need to include the placement worker as part of the treatment team in the development and implementation of the Needs and Services Plans, provide documentation to show that children are receiving treatment Services and provide children with additional recreational activities. Both Group Homes also need to replace furniture in the common living areas.

Renaissance I Group Home needs to repair and paint the back exterior wall of the Group Home. Additionally, the Group Home needs to clean the upstairs bathroom and remove the writing from the walls on the furniture in the children's bedrooms.

Renaissance II Group Home needs to clean the kitchen stove and oven, replace the broken tiles around the sink and clean the kitchen cabinets. Additionally, the Group Home needs to clean and replace all missing light bulbs in the first bathroom, clean the bath tub in the second bathroom and replace the mini blinds in the first bedroom. The Group Home also needs to encourage and assist children in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

Attached is a detailed report of the review.

Review of Report

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. In response to the recommendations made in the report, the Agency's management completed a corrective action plan (attached) which we approved. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me or have your staff contact Don Chadwick at (626) 293-1102.

JTM:DC:CC:bg

Attachments

c: William T Fujioka, Chief Executive Officer
Patricia S. Ploehn, Director, DCFS
Susan Kerr, Chief Deputy Director, DCFS
Robert B. Taylor, Chief Probation Officer
Richard Nzenwa, Executive Director, Renaissance Unlimited Group Home, Inc.
Public Information Office
Audit Committee

**Renaissance Unlimited Group Homes, Incorporated
Renaissance I Group Home
Los Angeles, California 90016
License Number: 191800135
Rate Classification Level: 6**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

Renaissance I Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean and adequately landscaped. However, the back exterior wall of the Group Home is damaged.

Generally, the interior of the Group Home is well maintained. The common quarters are neat. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment. However, the bath tub in the upstairs bathroom is dirty and the furniture in the TV room is too small for the children to use.

Overall, children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean and orderly and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting and storage space. However, there is writing on the furniture and walls in the children's bedrooms. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate.

The Group Home maintains age-appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

Recommendations

- 1. Renaissance Unlimited Group Home management:**
 - a. Repair and paint the back exterior wall of the Group Home.**
 - b. Clean the bathtub in the upstairs bathroom.**
 - c. Replace the furniture in the TV room.**
 - d. Remove all writing from the furniture and walls in the bedrooms.**

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

Children meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Children are assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

The Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) are current. However, all members of the treatment team are not included in the development or implementation of the NSPs. The NSPs are comprehensive and include short and long term goals.

Case files do not reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

Recommendations

2. Renaissance I Group Home management:

- a. **Include all members of the treatment team in the development and implementation of the Needs and Services Plans.**
- b. **Maintain adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.**

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

Children are attending school. Children are provided with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs and are progressing satisfactorily in school. The Group Home's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-help and survival skills.

Children are provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

Recommendation

There are no recommendations for this section.

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides children with leisure time. Children are provided with opportunities to participate in planning activities. However, children do not participate in a sufficient amount of recreational activities. Children participate in extra-curricular, enrichment and social activities in which they have an interest.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

Recommendation

3. Renaissance Unlimited Group Home management provide children with additional recreational activities.

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

Comments:

According to the Agency's management, there are currently no children taking psychotropic medications. This information is appropriately documented.

Children are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Recommendation

There are no recommendations for this section.

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment –Interviews with children

Sample size: Two

Comments:

Children are informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. Children report that they feel safe in the Group Home and are provided with appropriate staff supervision. Children express satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff and report that the staff treats them with respect and dignity.

Children report that they are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. Children are allowed to make and receive personal telephone calls, send and receive unopened mail and have private visitors. Children attend religious services of their choice.

Children report that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Children report satisfaction with meals and snacks.

Children receive voluntary medical, dental and psychiatric care.

Recommendation

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. Clothing and Allowance**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

Sample size: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to children. Children are provided with opportunities to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to children is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The Group Home provides children with the required minimum weekly allowance. Children spend their allowances as they choose.

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items. Children are also encouraged and assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

Recommendation

There are no recommendations for this section.

**Renaissance Unlimited Group Homes, Incorporated
Renaissance II Group Home
Gardena, California 90249
License Number: 198201583
Rate Classification Level: 6**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

Renaissance II Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean and adequately landscaped.

Generally, the interior of the Group Home is well maintained. The common quarters are neat. There is adequate lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment. However, the kitchen stove and oven are dirty, the tiles around the sink are broken and the cabinets are dirty. Additionally, the bath tub is dirty in the first bathroom, the second bathroom is dirty and has missing lighting and the furniture in the living room is too small for the children to use.

Overall, children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean and orderly and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. However, in the first bedroom the mini blinds are broken. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate.

The Group Home maintains age-appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

Recommendations

1. Renaissance Unlimited Group Home management:

- a. Clean the stove and oven in the kitchen.**
- b. Replace the broken tiles around the kitchen sink.**
- c. Clean the kitchen cabinets.**
- d. Clean the bath tub in the first bathroom.**

- e. Clean the second bathroom.
- f. Replace all missing lights in the second bathroom.
- g. Replace the broken blinds in the second bedroom.
- h. Replace the furniture in the living room as needed for the children's use.

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

Children meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Children are assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

The Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) are current. However, all members of the treatment team are not included in the development or implementation of the NSPs. The NSPs are comprehensive and include short and long term goals.

Case files do not reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

Recommendations

2. Renaissance Unlimited Group Home management:

- a. Include all members of the treatment team in the development and implementation of the Needs and Services Plans.
- b. Maintain adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

Children are attending school. Children are provided with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs and are progressing satisfactorily in school. The Group Home's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-help and survival skills.

Children are provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

Recommendation

There are no recommendations for this section.

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides children with leisure time. Children are provided with opportunities to participate in planning activities. However, children do not participate in a sufficient amount of recreational activities. Children participate in extra-curricular, enrichment and social activities in which they have an interest.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

Recommendation

- 3. Renaissance Unlimited Group Home management provide children with additional recreational activities.**

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

Comments:

According to the Agency's management, there are currently no children taking psychotropic medications. This information is appropriately documented.

Children are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Recommendation

There are no recommendations for this section.

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment – Interviews with children

Sample size: Two

Comments:

Children are informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. Children report that they feel safe in the Group Home and are provided with appropriate staff supervision. Children express satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff and report that the staff treats them with respect and dignity.

Children report that they are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. Children are allowed to make and receive personal telephone calls, send and receive unopened mail and have private visitors. Children attend religious services of their choice.

Children report that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Children report satisfaction with meals and snacks.

Children receive voluntary medical, dental and psychiatric care.

Recommendation

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to children. Children are provided with opportunities to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to children is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The Group Home provides children with the required minimum weekly allowance. Children spend their allowances as they choose.

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items. However, children are not encouraged or assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

Recommendation

- 4. Renaissance Unlimited Group Home management encourage and assist children in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.**

Renaissance Unlimited
2718 Redondo Blvd
Los Angeles, CA 90016
License Number 191800135

GROUP HOME MONITORING REVIEW OF 06/05/2007

CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN

Deficiency: Repair and paint the back exterior wall of the Group Home.

Current Status: To be implemented on or before 09/01/2007 and On-Going. Appointment to repair and paint exterior wall has been scheduled for 09/01/2007.
Facility Administrator will inspect interior and exterior of the facility weekly to ensure that any damages to facility walls are noted and repaired in a timely manner.
Facility Administrator will ensure that the corrective action plan is maintained and working as intended.

Deficiency: Clean the bathtub in the upstairs bathroom.

Current Status: Implemented 06/05/2007 and On-Going. The upstairs bathroom was cleaned.
Facility Shift Manager will monitor the facility hourly to ensure that the bathrooms are always clean and in good sanitary condition.
Facility Administrator will ensure that the corrective action plan is maintained and working as intended.

Deficiency: Replace the furniture in the TV room as needed for the children's use.

Current Status: Implemented 07/10/2007 and On-Going. The furniture in the TV room was replaced.
Facility Shift Manager will monitor all facility equipment and furniture daily to ensure that all facility equipment and furniture are well maintained.
Facility Administrator will ensure that the corrective action plan is maintained and working as intended.

Deficiency: Remove all writing from the furniture and walls in the bedroom.

Current Status: Implemented 06/06/2007 and On-Going. Writing on furniture and bedroom were removed.
Facility Shift Manager will monitor all facility walls and furniture daily to ensure that all facility walls and furniture have no writings.
Facility Administrator will ensure that the corrective action plan is maintained and working as intended.

Deficiency: Include all members of the treatment team in the development and implementation of the Needs and Services Plans.

Current Status: Implemented 06/06/2007 and On-Going. All members of the treatment team are being included in the development and implementation of the Needs and Services Plan.

Facility Social Worker will ensure that all members of the treatment team are included in the development and implementation of the Needs and Services Plans.

Facility Administrator will ensure that the corrective action plan is maintained and working as intended.

Deficiency: Maintain adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

Current Status: Implemented 06/06/2007 and On-Going. Facility Social Worker is maintaining adequate documentation for treatment services.

Facility Social Worker will maintain adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

Facility Administrator will ensure that the corrective action plan is maintained and working as intended.

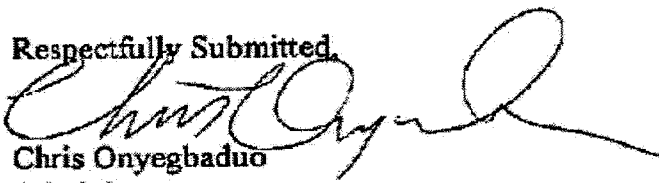
Deficiency: Provide children with sufficient off grounds recreational activities.

Current Status: Implemented on 07/01/2007 and On-Going. Sufficient off grounds recreational activities are have been included in the monthly activity schedule.

Facility Manager will review monthly activity schedule to ensure sufficient off grounds activities are included in the activity schedule.

Facility Administrator will ensure that the corrective action plan is maintained and working as intended.

Respectfully Submitted,



Chris Onyegbaduo
Administrator

Renaissance Unlimited
14835 Purche Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90249
License Number 198201583

GROUP HOME MONITORING REVIEW OF 06/07/2007

CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN

Deficiency: Clean the stove and oven in the kitchen.

Current Status: Implemented on 06/07/2007 and On-Going. Stove and Oven in the kitchen were cleaned.

Facility Manager will inspect the kitchen, oven and stove daily to ensure that they are clean and in good sanitary condition.

Facility Administrator will ensure that the corrective action plan is maintained and working as intended

Deficiency: Replace the broken tiles around the kitchen sink.

Current Status: Implemented on 06/30/2007 and On-Going. Broken tiles around the kitchen sink were replaced.

Facility Manager will inspect the kitchen daily to ensure that it is clean and in good sanitary condition and that there are no broken tiles around the kitchen sink.

Facility Administrator will ensure that the corrective action plan is maintained and working as intended

Deficiency: Clean the kitchen cabinets.

Current Status: Implemented on 06/07/2007 and On-Going. Kitchen cabinets were cleaned.

Facility Manager will inspect the kitchen cabinets daily to ensure that they are clean and in good sanitary condition.

Facility Administrator will ensure that the corrective action plan is maintained and working as intended

Deficiency: Clean the bathtub in the first bathroom.

Current Status: Implemented 06/07/2007 and On-Going. Bathtub in the first bathroom was cleaned.

Facility Shift Manager will monitor the facility hourly to ensure that the bathrooms are always clean and in good sanitary condition.

Facility Administrator will ensure that the corrective action plan is maintained and working as intended.

Deficiency: Clean the second bathroom.

Current Status: Implemented 06/07/2007 and On-Going. Bathtub in the second bathroom was cleaned.

Facility Shift Manager will monitor the facility hourly to ensure that the bathrooms are always clean and in good sanitary condition.

Facility Administrator will ensure that the corrective action plan is maintained and working as intended.

Deficiency: Replace the all missing lights in the second bathroom.

Current Status: Implemented 06/10/2007 and On-Going. All missing lights in the second bathroom were replaced.

Facility Shift Manager will monitor all facility equipment and furniture daily to ensure that all facility equipment and furniture are well maintained.

Facility Administrator will ensure that the corrective action plan is maintained and working as intended.

Deficiency: Replace the broken blinds in the second bedroom.

Current Status: Implemented 06/06/2007 and On-Going. Broken blinds in the second bedroom were replaced.

Facility Shift Manager will monitor all facility equipment and furniture daily to ensure that all facility equipment and furniture are well maintained.

Facility Administrator will ensure that the corrective action plan is maintained and working as intended.

Deficiency: Replace the furniture in the Livingroom as needed for the children's use.

Current Status: Implemented on 06/30/2007 and On-Going. Furniture in the Living room was replaced.

Facility Shift Manager will monitor all facility equipment and furniture daily to ensure that all facility equipment and furniture are well maintained.

Facility Administrator will ensure that the corrective action plan is maintained and working as intended.

Deficiency: Include all members of the treatment team in the development and implementation of the Needs and Services Plans.

Current Status: Implemented 06/06/2007 and On-Going. All members of the treatment are being included in the Needs and Services Plans.

Facility Social Worker will ensure that all members of the treatment team are included in the development and implementation of the Needs and Services Plans.

Facility Administrator will ensure that the corrective action plan is maintained and working as intended.

Deficiency: Maintain adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

Current Status: Implemented 06/06/2007 and On-Going. Facility Social Worker is maintaining adequate documentation for treatment services.

Facility Social Worker will maintain adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

Facility Administrator will ensure that the corrective action plan is maintained and working as intended

Deficiency: Provide children with sufficient off grounds recreational activities.

Current Status: Implemented on 07/01/2007 and On-Going. Sufficient off grounds recreational activities are have been included in the monthly activity schedule.

Facility Manager will review monthly activity schedule to ensure sufficient off grounds activities are included in the activity schedule.

Facility Administrator will ensure that the corrective action plan is maintained and working as intended

Deficiency: Encourage and assist children in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

Current Status: Implemented on 06/10/2007 and On-Going. Children have been though how to maintain their life books.

Facility Manager will review children's albums and life books monthly to ensure that children are being assisted to maintain them.

Facility Administrator will ensure that the corrective action plan is maintained and working as intended

Respectfully Submitted,



Chris Onyegbaduo
Administrator